

Amendments to the Claims

This Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A receptacle for receiving granular material to be placed on a an open rim of a beverage container, the receptacle comprising:
~~_____ a recessed portion having an interior area extending toward a center of the receptacle and an exterior area extending away from the center of the receptacle and wherein the recessed portion includes a substantially flat surface extending from the interior area to the exterior area;~~
_____ an outer wall portion having a bottom portion;
_____ a base portion joining the outer wall portion at the bottom portion;
_____ the base portion including a raised portion having a convex shape and connected to the interior area of the recessed portion extending upward and toward the center of the receptacle a first distance between approximately ½ inch and less than 2 two inches; and
_____ wherein the raised portion is being substantially circular and has having an outer diameter between approximately two inches and approximately four inches; and
_____ the base portion including a surrounding portion having a substantially flat surface that surrounds the raised portion; and
_____ an the outer wall portion connected to the exterior area and extending at least partly upwardly a second distance greater than the first distance to a top rim forming an open receptacle opening that has a maximum opening dimension greater than the second distance.
2. (original) The receptacle of claim 1 wherein the raised portion is a closed continuous surface.

3. (original) The receptacle of claim 1 wherein the raised portion has a closed surface that is substantially dome-shaped.

4. Canceled.

5. (currently amended) The receptacle of claim [[4]] 1 wherein the first distance is approximately ~~three-quarter~~ three-quarter inch.

6. Canceled.

7. (original) The receptacle of claim 1 wherein the outer wall portion extends substantially vertically.

8. (currently amended) The receptacle of claim 1 wherein the outer wall portion forms a ~~substantially circular~~ continuous wall ~~extending that extends~~ around the ~~recessed portion~~ the substantially flat surface and has a ~~an outer~~ diameter greater than 4 inches.

9. Canceled.

10. (previously presented) The receptacle of claim 1 wherein the second distance is at least twice the first distance.

11-13. Canceled.

14. (previously presented) A receptacle for receiving a material to be placed on a beverage container, the receptacle comprising:

a closed body portion having an upper rim defining an opening into the receptacle, an outer wall portion extending downwardly a first distance from the upper rim to a base portion, wherein the first distance is between one-quarter and 2 inches,

the base portion having a substantially flat surface facing upwardly toward the opening and extending inwardly toward a center from the outer wall portion to a raised portion, wherein the base portion is configured to support a granular material and sized sufficiently to receive an open rim of a beverage container and wherein a largest dimension of the base portion across the body is greater than 4 inches, wherein the raised portion extends inwardly from the base portion substantially constantly upwardly toward a center of the receptacle and wherein the raised portion has a vertical height approximately half the first distance and a largest dimension of the raised portion across the body is between approximately 2 and 4 inches, and wherein the raised portion is configured to allow a granular material to move under the force of gravity toward the base portion.

15. (original) The receptacle of claim 14 wherein the raised portion is substantially convex.

16. (previously presented) The receptacle of claim 15 wherein the raised portion has a substantially constant curvature.

17. (original) The receptacle of claim 14 wherein the outer wall portion is substantially vertical.

18. (previously presented) The receptacle of claim 17 wherein the raised portion includes a substantially vertical wall joined to the base portion.

19. (currently amended) A receptacle for receiving a material to be placed on a beverage container, the receptacle comprising:

a round container having an upper rim defining an opening into the container, an outer wall portion extending vertically downwardly a first distance from the upper rim to a base portion, wherein the first distance is between one-quarter inch and 2 inches, the base portion having a substantially flat surface facing upwardly toward the opening and

extending inwardly toward a center from the outer wall portion to a raised portion, wherein the raised portion extends inwardly from the base portion substantially constantly upwardly toward a center of the receptacle and wherein the raised portion has a vertical height approximately half the first distance; and

a ~~round~~ rimming dish sized to fit at least partly within the ~~round~~ container, the dish having a first recessed area for receiving a coating material for coating a rim of a drink ware, and also having a raised area in the dish sized sufficiently to allow manual grasping of the raised area and wherein the raised area includes a wall defining an outer perimeter of the raised area and wherein the raised area further includes a second recessed area within the wall.

20. (original) The receptacle of claim 19 further including a lid sized to fit over the container rim.

21. (currently amended) A receptacle comprising:

a receptacle wall extending upwardly from a bottom portion of the receptacle wall to a receptacle rim, wherein the receptacle rim defines an opening having a size sufficient to receive the open rim of an item of drink ware and wherein the largest distance across the opening is greater than 4 inches and wherein the receptacle rim has an upper surface;

a bottom wall joining the receptacle wall at the bottom portion of the receptacle wall, the bottom wall having a relatively flat section adjacent the receptacle wall and a raised portion interior to the relatively flat section and wherein the raised portion extends upward to an upper position above the relatively flat section and below the receptacle rim, wherein the upper position is greater than or equal to about one-half inch and less than two inches, wherein the raised portion has a largest distance across the receptacle between 2 and 4 inches and wherein the opening size is greater than a distance from the bottom portion to the receptacle rim ~~of the receptacle wall~~; and

the receptacle wall and the bottom wall comprising a molded plastic construction.

22. (previously presented) The receptacle of claim 21 wherein the upper position is about one-half inch.

23. (previously presented) The receptacle of claim 21 wherein the raised portion has a curvature over substantially the entire surface of the raised portion.

24-28. Canceled.

29. (previously presented) The receptacle of claim 19 wherein the raised area extends beyond the level of the upper rim.

30. (previously presented) The receptacle of claim 19 wherein the second recessed area includes a raised portion extending substantially upward to separate the second recessed area into first and second regions.

31. (previously presented) The receptacle of claim 30 wherein the raised portion is a diametrically extending wall dividing the first and second regions.

32. (previously presented) The receptacle of claim 31 wherein the diametrically extending wall extends above the upper rim.

33. (previously presented) The receptacle of claim 19 wherein the recessed area and the raised area each occupy respective surface areas in the rimming dish and wherein the recessed area surface area is greater than the raised area surface area.

34. (new) The receptacle of claim 1 wherein the raised portion is configured to allow a granular material to move under the force of gravity toward the substantially flat surface, and the surrounding portion is configured to support the granular material and is sized sufficiently to receive an open rim of a beverage container.

35. (new) The receptacle of claim 1 wherein the outer wall portion and the base portion comprise a molded plastic construction.

36. (new) The receptacle of claim 1 wherein the outer wall portion includes snap-on protrusions on an upper outer surface thereof and spaced below the rim to accept a snap-on lid.

37. (new) The receptacle of claim 1 wherein the outer wall portion includes threads on an upper outer surface thereof to accept with a threaded engagement a threaded lid.

38. (new) The receptacle of claim 21 wherein the receptacle wall includes threads on an upper outer surface thereof to accept with a threaded engagement a threaded lid.

39. (new) The receptacle of claim 21 wherein the raised portion is configured to allow a granular material to move under the force of gravity toward the relatively flat section, and the relatively flat section is configured to support the granular material.

40. (new) A receptacle for receiving granular material to be placed on an open rim of an item of drinkware, the receptacle comprising:

an outer wall portion having a bottom portion;

a base portion joining the closed wall portion at the bottom portion;

the base portion including a raised dome portion and a surrounding portion;

the raised dome portion extending upward and toward a center of the receptacle a first distance between approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ inch and two inches;

the raised dome portion being substantially circular and having an outer diameter between approximately two inches and approximately four inches;

the surrounding portion joining the outer wall portion, facing upwardly and surrounding the raised dome portion;

the outer wall portion extending at least partly upwardly a second distance greater than the first distance to a receptacle rim forming a receptacle opening that has a maximum opening dimension greater than the second distance;

the raised dome portion being configured to allow a granular material to move under the force of gravity from the raised dome portion toward the surrounding portion; and

the surrounding portion being configured to support the granular material and being sized sufficiently to receive an open rim of an item of drinkware inserted in through the receptacle opening.

41. (new) The receptacle of claim 40 wherein the surrounding portion is flat.

42. (new) The receptacle of claim 40 wherein the outer wall portion and the base portion are a plastic construction.

43. (new) The receptacle of claim 40 wherein the outer wall portion and the base portion are a molded plastic construction and the surrounding portion is flat.

44. (new) The receptacle of claim 40 wherein the outer wall portion includes threads on an upper outer surface thereof to accept with a threaded engagement a threaded lid.

45. (new) A receptacle comprising:

a receptacle wall extending upwardly from a bottom portion of the receptacle wall to a receptacle rim, wherein the rim defines an opening having a size sufficient to receive the open rim of an item of drinkware and wherein the largest distance across the opening is greater than four inches and wherein the receptacle rim has an upper surface;

a bottom wall joining the receptacle wall at the bottom portion of the receptacle wall, the bottom wall having a relatively flat section adjacent the receptacle wall and a raised portion interior to the relatively flat section and wherein the raised portion extends upward to an upper position above the relatively flat section and below the receptacle rim wherein the upper position is greater than or equal to about one-half inch and less than two inches, wherein the raised portion has a largest distance across the receptacle between two and four inches and wherein the opening size is greater than a distance from the bottom portion to the receptacle rim; and

the receptacle wall includes (1) at least one protrusion on an upper outer surface thereof and spaced below the receptacle rim to accept a snap-on lid for the receptacle or (2) threads on an upper outer surface thereof to accept a threaded lid for the receptacle.

46. (new) A receptacle for receiving a granular material to be placed on a rim of a beverage container, the receptacle comprising:

a container having an upper rim defining a container opening, an outer wall portion extending vertically downwardly a first distance from the upper rim to a base portion, wherein the first distance is between one-quarter inch and two inches, the base portion having a substantially flat surface facing upwardly toward the container opening and extending inwardly toward a center from the outer wall portion to a raised portion, wherein the raised portion extends inwardly from the base portion substantially constantly upwardly toward a center of the receptacle and wherein the raised portion has a vertical height approximately half the first distance; and

a rimming dish sized to fit at least partly within the container, the dish having a first recessed area configured to receive a coating material for coating a rim of a beverage container.

47. (new) The receptacle of claim 46 wherein the rimming dish has a raised area that includes a wall defining an outer perimeter of the raised area and wherein the raised area further includes a second recessed area within the wall.

48. (new) The receptacle of claim 47 wherein the second recessed area includes a raised portion extending substantially upward to separate the second recessed area into first and second regions.

49. (new) The receptacle of claim 48 wherein the raised portion is a diametrically extending wall dividing the first and second regions.

50. (new) The receptacle of claim 49 wherein the diametrically extending wall extends above the upper rim.

51. (new) The receptacle of claim 47 wherein the recessed area and the raised area each occupy respective surface areas in the rimming dish and wherein the recessed area surface area is greater than the raised area surface area.

52. (new) The receptacle of claim 47 wherein the raised area extends beyond the level of the upper rim.

53. (new) The receptacle of claim 46 wherein the diameter of the container opening is greater than the first distance.